

## Statement on the Crash of Singapore Airlines Flight SQ-006 in Taiwan *November 1, 2000*

I want to express my deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the crash of Singapore Airlines Flight SQ-006 in Taiwan yesterday. It is too early to know the cause of the accident, but the United States is helping Taiwan authorities find the answers. A team

from the National Transportation Safety Board is on its way to Taiwan now to assist with the investigation. We are also doing all we can to assist the victims and their families, both through the American Institute in Taiwan and the American Red Cross in Los Angeles.

## Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Announcement To Further Implement the Sharm al-Sheikh Agreement *November 1, 2000*

I welcome this development and am hopeful that it will lead to implementation of the steps agreed to by both parties at Sharm al-Sheikh.

## Statement on Signing the Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 2000 *November 1, 2000*

Today I signed into law H.R. 209, the "Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 2000."

In 1986, the Congress passed the Federal Technology Transfer Act (FTTA). That Act built upon the basic premise of the earlier Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act and the Bayh-Dole Act, namely, that Federal laboratories create technologies that businesses may desire to develop commercially as a source of competitive advantage. The FTFA established new partnering policies for Government laboratories in the earliest stages of research through mechanisms such as the Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA). Since that time, American taxpayers have seen how Government-owned innovations can be brought into the marketplace to create consumer products, thereby improving our quality of life and enhancing our international competitiveness.

The Act will help ensure that the benefits of Federal research translate into new products and opportunities for the American public. It simplifies the process of licensing Government-owned inventions to the private sector by allow-

ing the licensing of preexisting inventions that arise under CRADAs so that the private sector partner has access to the relevant technology. The Act also authorizes Federal agencies to acquire rights in related privately owned inventions, so as to create a more effective portfolio for licensing.

The Act will remove procedural obstacles to technology transfer and directs agencies to consider the increasingly international environment of innovation. It recognizes that, in many cases, the necessary period for notice by a Federal agency of its intent to grant exclusive licenses can be shortened using both traditional and electronic means for providing the notice. In making decisions about appropriate notice periods, Federal agencies must continue to balance the need for promptness against the fundamental statutory purpose of ensuring that these inventions are used in a way that benefits the public. I expect that individual agencies will use their discretion responsibly in setting the period for comment on proposed exclusive licenses and

will bear in mind that the 15-day period provided in this Act is a minimum requirement that may not be appropriate in all situations.

I fully support the effort, under the policy leadership of the Department of Commerce, to improve the transfer of valuable technology from Federal laboratories to the private sector.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 209, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-404.

## Statement on Signing the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000

*November 1, 2000*

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4850, the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000." The Act directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in benefits for service-disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and children, effective December 1, 2000. It provides for higher payments of disability compensation to veterans who suffer from service-connected disabilities and for higher payments of dependency and indemnity compensation for the surviving spouses and children of servicemembers and veterans whose deaths were service-connected. Consistent with the proposal in my Fiscal Year 2001 Budget, the COLA in these benefits is equal to the one that will be provided under current law to Social Security beneficiaries and veterans pension recipients: 3.5

percent. This Act ensures that the value of these well-deserved benefits will keep pace with inflation.

This group of American citizens deserves our Nation's gratitude, particularly those who have suffered disability or have made the supreme sacrifice while serving their country and protecting our freedom. This Act expresses our appreciation for and continued commitment to these brave men and women.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 4850, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-413.

## Statement on Signing the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act

*November 1, 2000*

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 5164, the "Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act." The TREAD Act represents an important first step toward strengthening our Nation's motor vehicle safety laws, and its vigorous and quick implementation will help save lives and prevent injuries.

Most important, the Act responds directly to some of the key shortcomings in identifying the

recent Firestone tire problem. Some of the deaths and injuries associated with these tires might have been prevented if automobile manufacturers and their suppliers had been required to provide the Government with more timely information about potential safety defects. The Act addresses this by: (1) specifically requiring manufacturers, within 5 days, to report to the Secretary of Transportation any relevant safety recalls or other safety campaigns in foreign